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A Wonderful Show, a glorious Show, a Charming Show, a
Lovely Show, a Show teeming with the most varied and variety. Yours is
is charming, and these, and these, are charming.

NOT ONLY CHARMING BUT CHEAP.

THE WAX DOLLS ARE CHEAP.

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diverting things. Everything that is in the civilized world is
herein represented; everything that is a toy is here, is here.

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BRICKS, BUILDERS, BRICKS.

to build all sorts of useful edifices, to construct all sorts of neces-
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NINFEENCE, NINFEENCE, NINFEENCE

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W. M. WALLACE.

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ROYAL ARCADE EXHIBITION is now open, and should be seen. The variety of designs is unequalled in Sydney. As you pass do not fail to look at the **ARCADE WINDOWS**. Well-selected and shrewdly selected. **Hand-painted Mechanical, and ORNAMENTAL**, &c., &c., suitable for **CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**, have just landed from home markets, and selling at wholesale prices.

PRESENTATION BOOKS for old and young, in endless variety, direct from publishers, **CARDS, ALBUMS, WRITING DESKS**, &c., &c., made to special order, and at a reduction of 25 per cent. on the retail price, will be sold at a reduction of 40 per cent. on last year's price.

Do not fail to call and see the **ROYAL ARCADE EXHIBITION** on Monday, like a special feature of the day. The best Christmas goods can be bought at wholesale prices, owing to judicious selection by Continental representatives.

Note the special facilities and advantages for yourselves. Unrepresented by display of Christmas goods.

Country customers will do well to repeat their favours, and the largest and best of the goods will be sent to the country. Country orders will receive the best attention at Sydney prices.

The **ROYAL ARCADE CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION** surpasses anything yet seen.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS, from 3d per doz. to those of most elegant design in Mother-of-Pearl, from 1s. each. Main, Goulston, & Co., 10, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4, LONDON.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS.—**FOSTER'S** Depot, 144, William-street, can supply you any style; 3d, 4d, 6d, 10d, 12d, 15d, 20d, 25d, 30d, 40d, 50d, 60d, 75d, 100d, 125d, 150d, 200d, 250d, 300d, 400d, 500d, 600d, 750d, 1000d, 1250d, 1500d, 2000d, 2500d, 3000d, 4000d, 5000d, 6000d, 7500d, 10000d, 12500d, 15000d, 20000d, 25000d, 30000d, 40000d, 50000d, 60000d, 75000d, 100000d, 125000d, 150000d, 200000d, 250000d, 300000d, 400000d, 500000d, 600000d, 750000d, 1000000d, 1250000d, 1500000d, 2000000d, 2500000d, 3000000d, 4000000d, 5000000d, 6000000d, 7500000d, 10000000d, 12500000d, 15000000d, 20000000d, 25000000d, 30000000d, 40000000d, 50000000d, 60000000d, 75000000d, 100000000d, 125000000d, 150000000d, 200000000d, 250000000d, 300000000d, 400000000d, 500000000d, 600000000d, 750000000d, 1000000000d, 1250000000d, 1500000000d, 2000000000d, 2500000000d, 3000000000d, 4000000000d, 5000000000d, 6000000000d, 7500000000d, 10000000000d, 12500000000d, 15000000000d, 20000000000d, 25000000000d, 30000000000d, 40000000000d, 50000000000d, 60000000000d, 75000000000d, 100000000000d, 125000000000d, 150000000000d, 200000000000d, 250000000000d, 300000000000d, 400000000000d, 500000000000d, 600000000000d, 750000000000d, 1000000000000d, 1250000000000d, 1500000000000d, 2000000000000d, 2500000000000d, 3000000000000d, 4000000000000d, 5000000000000d, 6000000000000d, 7500000000000d, 10000000000000d, 12500000000000d, 15000000000000d, 20000000000000d, 25000000000000d, 30000000000000d, 40000000000000d, 50000000000000d, 60000000000000d, 75000000000000d, 100000000000000d, 125000000000000d, 150000000000000d, 200000000000000d, 250000000000000d, 300000000000000d, 400000000000000d, 500000000000000d, 600000000000000d, 750000000000000d, 1000000000000000d, 1250000000000000d, 1500000000000000d, 2000000000000000d, 2500000000000000d, 3000000000000000d, 4000000000000000d, 5000000000000000d, 6000000000000000d, 7500000000000000d, 10000000000000000d, 12500000000000000d, 15000000000000000d, 20000000000000000d, 25000000000000000d, 30000000000000000d, 40000000000000000d, 50000000000000000d, 60000000000000000d, 75000000000000000d, 100000000000000000d, 125000000000000000d, 150000000000000000d, 200000000000000000d, 250000000000000000d, 300000000000000000d, 400000000000000000d, 500000000000000000d, 600000000000000000d, 750000000000000000d, 1000000000000000000d, 1250000000000000000d, 1500000000000000000d, 2000000000000000000d, 2500000000000000000d, 3000000000000000000d, 4000000000000000000d, 5000000000000000000d, 6000000000000000000d, 7500000000000000000d, 10000000000000000000d, 12500000000000000000d, 15000000000000000000d, 20000000000000000000d, 25000000000000000000d, 30000000000000000000d, 40000000000000000000d, 50000000000000000000d, 60000000000000000000d, 75000000000000000000d, 100000000000000000000d, 125000000000000000000d, 150000000000000000000d, 200000000000000000000d, 250000000000000000000d, 300000000000000000000d, 400000000000000000000d, 500000000000000000000d, 600000000000000000000d, 750000000000000000000d, 1000000000000000000000d, 1250000000000000000000d, 1500000000000000000000d, 2000000000000000000000d, 2500000000000000000000d, 3000000000000000000000d, 4000000000000000000000d, 5000000000000000000000d, 6000000000000000000000d, 7500000000000000000000d, 10000000000000000000000d, 12500000000000000000000d, 15000000000000000000000d, 20000000000000000000000d, 25000000000000000000000d, 30000000000000000000000d, 40000000000000000000000d, 50000000000000000000000d, 60000000000000000000000d, 75000000000000000000000d, 100000000000000000000000d, 125000000000000000000000d, 150000000000000000000000d, 200000000000000000000000d, 250000000000000000000000d, 300000000000000000000000d, 400000000000000000000000d, 500000000000000000000000d, 600000000000000000000000d, 750000000000000000000000d, 1000000000000000000000000d, 1250000000000000000000000d, 1500000000000000000000000d, 2000000000000000000000000d, 2500000000000000000000000d, 3000000000000000000000000d, 4000000000000000000000000d, 5000000000000000000000000d, 6000000000000000000000000d, 7500000000000000000000000d, 10000000000000000000000000d, 12500000000000000000000000d, 15000

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NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL, VIA SUEZ.

THE ENGLISH MAIL PER ORIENT STEAMER.

Sorata was delivered from the General Post Office at 9 a.m. yesterday. We have received our London and foreign correspondence and file of English papers to the 7th November.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, Nov. 7.

The division on the second reading of the Franchise Bill in the Lower House takes place to night, and long before this letter reaches you the result will have been made known by telegraph.

Mr. Gladstone, in moving the second reading of the bill last night, did not fulfil our expectations, and give the details of his redistribution scheme. In regard to that matter he refused to depart from the attitude which he had taken up all along; but in other respects his speech was as conciliatory as could have been desired, and, as far as we can judge, it was not without its effect on the Opposition mind.

In other particulars this week in Parliament has been a fairly stirring one. Our Irish friends very speedily recovered from the rebuff which they experienced over the Maudslayi affair, and this morning they proceeded to attack Government upon a fresh line—namely, the reappointment of Mr. George Holton to his former office; and also to try and discredit the Dublin Castle officials in connection with certain trials now proceeding in Dublin.

We have also had another Irish scene, which has resulted in the suspension for one week of Mr. J. Hugh O'Shea. This is a very serious blow to the Irish in the Parliamentary firmament, and belongs to no party in particular. According to his own account the idea occurred to him to try the ability of the Speaker to make use of the "insolent power" placed in his hands a couple of years ago. This obviously excited the Speaker to order Mr. O'Shea to withdraw, and he proceeded to carry out on Wednesday morning with the result that he was signally worsted in the encounter. The vigour and promptitude with which the Speaker at once quelled what might easily have grown into a disturbance has elicited many expressions of satisfaction.

Debates have taken place upon Buchanan and Egypt, and upon the reappointment of Mr. George Holton to his former office. The former debate, the pledge that they would place Maudslayi in the same condition as he was previous to the seizure of the House upon his territory; and the other, which was raised at the instance of Mr. Ashmead-Burke, had as its object the reappointment of Mr. George Holton to his former office.

Concerning South Africa generally, the greater part of our information has come from outside Parliament. In answer to a deputation which waited upon him in regard to South African policy, Lord Derby expressed the idea that the Cabinet contemplated the abandonment either of the Cape or any other of our colonial possessions. At the same time he declared that there was no intention of extending the area of our responsibilities in the former quarter, and hence the Government would decide either to retain the Cape, or to abandon the Sudan to anarchy. The noble lord declared that it had always been the intention of the Cabinet to establish a stable Government in Khartoum and the eastern Sudan.

On Wednesday evening Sir Charles Warren was present at a dinner given by the London Chamber of Commerce, and although the gallant colonel stated that he did not exactly know what he was going out to Buchanan to do, since he had not yet received his instructions, yet the expression, "you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs" may be taken as a mild and water policy. He will start for the Cape in a few days, and be accompanied by a small force of some two or three thousand men, who are now being selected for the purpose.

Lord Northbrook has not yet made public his report upon Egypt, and a good many rumours are afloat concerning the nature of the suggestions which he has made to the Cabinet. The suggestion which finds most acceptance is that Lord Northbrook proposes that we should guarantee the interest on the Indemnity Fund; reduce our own interest on the Suez Canal shares from five to three per cent, and pay part of the cost of the Egyptian army of occupation. Whether the British taxpayer will see the force of the latter part of the arrangement is another question.

The meeting between Lord Wolsley and the Mudir of Dongola has been of a very friendly nature, and the Mudir was greatly pleased with the insignia of the Order of Michael and St. George with which Lord Wolsley decorated him.

The unexpected death of Mr. Fawcett has been a very great shock to the country. Up to the middle of yesterday afternoon the right hon. gentleman was pronounced to be recovering, and barely a couple of hours afterwards the end took place. Mr. Fawcett had never really recovered from the severe illness which he suffered from two years ago, and, through his fondness for out-of-door exercise, he appears to have caught a cold, which developed into inflammation of the lungs. Of his loss to the country, or of his useful labours in office, it is of course superfluous to speak.

Another Fenian arrest has been made in Ireland this week, and one of great importance is attached to it. It is that of a young man named Allen, who was employed as a clerk in the office of the Freeman's Journal. A number of documents were found in his possession showing him to have been an officer high in the Fenian body, and also that he had been actively engaged in purchasing arms to be distributed throughout the ranks of the organisation. Amongst these documents was a book containing the names of members of the Fenian body who had left this country and gone to America.

The trial of Patrick Fitzgerald, for implication in the Tuberculosis conspiracy, is proceeding this week. Fitzgerald's case is very similar to that of Allen, except that the charges against him are more specific. That of a man named Moran and of Patrick Delaney (of Phoenix Park fame).

The severe rap over the knuckles which Lord Randolph Churchill received, as the result of his outrageous charges upon the Birmingham Corporation, has had but little effect upon the equally false statement that he has ventured upon the equally false statement that he is the foundation-stone of the new building of the National Liberal Club by the workmen employed at the Hotel Metropole. Had been produced by the exercise of "immense pressure" on the part of Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., and Mr. Holloway, the manager of the hotel.

Both the gentleman's accusation, and an investigation into the whole affair by some of the Liberal press shows that the noble lord had no better foundation for his statement than an anonymous letter which appeared in one of the evening Conservative papers. Nevertheless Lord Randolph does not care; and of the honest Englishman who heard the accusation probably not one in twenty will ever read the denial.

The new home of the National Liberal Club when it is completed will be the largest of the kind in the world. It is intended mainly for the use of provincial Liberals who may have to come up to London, and, generally speaking, to be a sort of focus of provincial Liberalism. At present we are told that the club is too everything; but the arrangements and every thing connected with the club will be on such a sumptuous scale that there is every likelihood of its degenerating into a temple of luxury like the Reform. If anything saves it from such a fate it will

be the size, for the limit of members is to be no less than 8000. By the time the building is completed it is estimated that it will have cost over a quarter of a million of money.

The 5th of November passed off quietly enough in London, but its celebration was much more general than in previous years. Perhaps the Conservative jubilee which we had during the recess had whetted the public appetite for fireworks. It is notable that Lord Randolph, although he has been so severely criticised for his great regard for Gaule, and the claimant was in great request as Gaule.

The production of Romeo and Juliet at the Lyceum Theatre last Saturday was as much a triumph for the Hon. Lewis Wingfield as for Miss Mary Anderson. Mr. Wingfield has had charge of the piece on scene, and consequently the mounting of the piece was in every way admirable. Some disappointment was expressed in the "highest circles" of the Lyceum at the omission of the funeral procession. But this appears to have been unavoidable, and indeed the play was quite long enough without it, for it was close upon midnight before the curtain fell.

Miss Anderson's acting showed signs of improvement in many respects. The girl who of Juliet's character was represented with winning grace, particularly in the scene with the nurse. In point of personal beauty, too, Miss Anderson is undoubtedly the most charming Juliet whom modern players can remember to have seen. But there the praise must end. The objections to the lady's failure to do adequate justice to the emotions of the heart remain as strong as ever. Although her driving air improved in this respect are plainly visible.

We are threatened with the loss of a lady and gentleman from whom, for many years past, we have been accustomed to look for theatrical plaudits of a high and pure, if not of a severely classical, flavour. Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft intend to retire from the stage on the 10th inst. to the Hamlet, where they have been since 1885. We are, however, encouraged to hope that they will not retire from the profession altogether, but that they will still occasionally see them upon the stage. Of the high position held in the theatrical world by Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft it is needless to speak. At the Prince of Wales Theatre in Tottenham Court-road, and later at the Haymarket, they have maintained a high standard of drama. The Robertson school of comedy has never been so well placed upon the stage as when under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, and original English drama of other types has always been under a welcome and careful tutelage at their hands. Indeed it is perhaps the only type of drama which has been so well maintained as to the past. The Robertson school of comedy has never been so well placed upon the stage as when under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, and original English drama of other types has always been under a welcome and careful tutelage at their hands. Indeed it is perhaps the only type of drama which has been so well maintained as to the past.

The adieu at the Star Theatre, Glasgow, this week, has again revived the controversy about the exits from theatres. But when such a panic as that which was caused by the fire at the Star Theatre, Glasgow, it is difficult to see how any reasonable number of exits would have prevented certainly a great many people from being crushed to death. The only effectual plan to enable a theatre to empty itself rapidly is that adopted at the Prince of Wales, where in the pit there are several folding doors, which open directly on to the street. But this is only a makeshift, and very few theatres have it. We would rather the fire at the Star Theatre, Glasgow, had been prevented by a more effectual plan to enable a theatre to empty itself rapidly is that adopted at the Prince of Wales, where in the pit there are several folding doors, which open directly on to the street. But this is only a makeshift, and very few theatres have it. 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Special Agent

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT CONTRACT.

PAC SIMILE
INSPECTING ENGINEER'S FORM,

Reply to be addressed to—
The Director-General of Stores,
India Office,
Westminster, S.W.
India Office,
Westminster, S.W.,
January 7, 1890.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you with the intention of the state and that the articles required below have been taken down excepted, subject to the conditions and specifications as which you tendred.

Your claims must be preferred in duplicate on the forms provided at this office, and you are requested to quote on them the date of this letter and the following reference, £ 436.

I request that you will acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and that you will not commence the work until you have received full instructions from the inspecting engineer.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES G. SHAW,
Director-General of Stores.

The American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass.

Date of Tender.	Nature of Articles.	For what Service.
First December, and second day after signature of 4th and 52nd November, 1879.	372 Indian Staff with spare parts.	Indian Staff day.

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Waltham Company, of Waltham, Mass., for watches to be used by the United States engineers, electricians and other employees on the Indian Mail Steamship Co. The watches were awarded to the firm on the 18th inst., after thorough examination and open competition. The watches were made by the Waltham Co. of Waltham, Mass. About 1,000 watches have now been furnished the British Government by the Waltham Co. as a gift.

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Highest Awards at all International Exhibitions—
Philadelphia, 1876; London, 1883; Vienna, 1884;
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THE SYDNEY MEDICAL JOURNAL, THE SYDNEY
AND NEWCASTLE, awarded First Prize, Sydney
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PRICE 50c, 60c, Clearance Sale.

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GLASS, and Cut-crystal Iron Merchants, 408, George-street,
HARBY BROTHERS, WATCHMAKERS AND
JEWELLERS, 10, Abchurch Lane, LONDON, E.C. 4.**

**BRINSELD AND CO.'S Fine-finish SHU-ROOM,
Corner of George and Iron streets,
and
and Music Warehouse, 17, Pitt-street, SYDNEY.**

**HAVE YOU ANY BOYS—H. L. SUMMER-
FIELD, 22, CO. GREAT JUVENILE DEPTFUTDS, 10,
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cups, 22c, perfectly cut and beautifully finished. Good Eas-**

FRESHLY DRESSED, sizes 8 to 17, at 10c, 25c, 30c, 35c, each in Sepsine.
FRUIT & NUTS.—**ALL GROCERIES.**

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for Highest Degree of Merit
WAUGH'S BAKING POWDER IS THE BEST.

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Oxford-st., for Summer Boots and Shoes. Moderate prices.

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CLASS FIRST AND PRIZE Performance.

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We have just landed our usual shipment if the above, Funn and Fisher's and Yates's, &c. Perambulators, and being hung up all round the shop, you can see them better than anywhere else.

Also a splendid pair of Cheddar Cheese.

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PURCHASE NONK BOY THE GENUINE
WOLFE'S SNAPPERS, Boy whirling bottles.

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and money in capital—**ALL HOUSES**
of **SIMS AND PARKEN, Medical Herbalists,**
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AND VISITORS TO SYDNEY,
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SERVICES OF GLASS,
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and **TEA SERVICES;**

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ORNAMENTAL CHINA and GLASS

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NEVER BEEN EXCELLED
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The Sydney Morning Herald.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1884.

An English Royal Commission has been enquiring into the best means of defending the British possessions abroad, and a few weeks ago the Inspector-General of Fortifications announced the result of the inquiry, or as much of it as he deemed it necessary for the British public to know. The English military authorities have decided to act on the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and their object in doing so is the protection of British commerce abroad. For the better protection of commerce the Inspector-General of Fortifications proposed that the British Government should build a series of forts whose guns would command the principal sea routes between the British colonies and the British Isles. These forts would be built at intervals of about 100 miles along the coast of each of the British colonies, and would be armed with guns capable of firing shells weighing 10 tons. The cost of building such a system of forts was estimated at £10,000,000, and the British Government had agreed to contribute £5,000,000 towards the expense. The remaining £5,000,000 was to be contributed by the colonies themselves. The British Government had also agreed to contribute £1,000,000 towards the expense of building a series of forts along the coast of the British Isles. The remaining £4,000,000 was to be contributed by the British colonies themselves. The British Government had also agreed to contribute £1,000,000 towards the expense of building a series of forts along the coast of the British Isles. The remaining £4,000,000 was to be contributed by the British colonies themselves.

name he is asking has recommended an expenditure of £800,000. The sum is certainly not a large one, and the general opinion will be that if that is all that is wanted for the protection of British commerce, that commerce cannot be in extreme danger. When it is remembered that ten or fifteen millions are to be spent on the relief of General Gordon, the amount named must be held to be a very small one. Small as it is, only about one-half of it is to be charged to the Imperial exchequer. The rest is to be paid by the localities interested. India is to contribute towards the defence of Aden, the Cape of Good Hope towards that of Table Bay, and Hongkong towards Singapore, Colombo and the Mauritius, are to pay for their own improvements. The doctrine laid down by the Imperial authorities is that as the colonies have a great interest in the protection of their stations against sudden attack it is no more than reasonable that the cost of their defences should be charged to their Governments. If it be asked why so small a sum is deemed sufficient for the strengthening

erial authorities answer that it is extremely unlikely that British coaling stations broad will be attacked by large forces; and that in the event of their being so.

attacked, the mother country would be able to send a large force to meet them. "The above proposals," we are told, "have been based on the principle that sudden attacks could only be made by comparatively small squadrons, and the defence has been calculated in each case to provide for a more serious attack being contemplated by any foreign power it could not be kept secret, and the support of the British fleet might then be counted on." The idea seems to be that a small squadron cannot possibly do a great deal of damage, and that under no circumstances would an enemy be able to destroy the communications between the colonies and the mother country, and so carry out his plans in secret. The theory is no doubt a convenient one, but it may be questioned whether its soundness would be proved by the event. The power of a squadron to do mischief would depend upon its quality, not upon its size. One or two fast cruisers with effective guns would be a greater danger than a large squadron of ineffective ones, and any Government that despatched such cruisers to a British coaling-station would adopt all necessary means for keeping its operations in the dark.

Whether the Royal Commission devoted much of its attention to the question of the defence of Australia does not appear; but in the recommendations of the Defence Committee there is no reference to either Australia or New Zealand. It may be thought that these colonies are already sufficiently defended, or that, whatever the state of their defences may be, they are not in need of any advice from the Imperial authorities. The impression seems to be that in the matter of our defences we are not greatly in need of either help or counsel from home. In England the omission of not only Australia but India from the scheme which has been published, is looked upon as noteworthy. Referring to the omission, the *Times* says: "Both India and the Australian colonies may be thought capable of protecting themselves to a great degree, and so no doubt they are. But their defence is also the interest of the Imperial Government, which ought at least to take the initiative in its organisation. A good deal has already been done by the Australians, and with a little judicious encouragement and assistance their infant fleet might be converted into a powerful local auxiliary of the Imperial navy." The notion seems to be that there is an infant fleet somewhere in Australia, and so far as the other colonies are concerned there may be some ground for it; but we need hardly say that there is not even an "infant fleet" in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland have their gunboats, but New South Wales has no sea-going ships of any kind. It is true that we have the *Wolverene*, but she was hardly intended to be the nucleus of a fleet. The *Wolverene* is supposed to be a training-ship, and she would probably be found to be unfit for anything more. A few days ago it was announced that a gunboat was being ordered for New South Wales, but the correctness of the report was denied. Our Government has not only done nothing for the purposes of the maritime defence of the colony, it has not signified that it intends to do anything. Seven years ago Sir WILLIAM JENKINS told us he did not think that the danger from a vessel outside the harbour could be effectually met by land batteries or by mine torpedoes. For the purpose of resisting any possible attack on Sydney by shells that might be thrown from outside the harbour Sir WILLIAM advised the possession of a 2300-ton ironclad vessel, the vessel to be constructed as a ram, and to be fitted for propelling the Whitehead torpedo. Sir WILLIAM JENKINS' idea was never acted upon. The Assembly declared against the proposal to purchase an ironclad; not, however, on the ground that a vessel of some kind was not necessary, but on the ground that, if supplied at all, it should be by the Imperial Government. The idea was that such a vessel should be obtained, and maintained at the expense and for the use of the colony; but that it should be secured through her Majesty's Government, and form part of the naval force of the nation. There was, and still is, much to be said on the side of this view. There are things which we can do best for ourselves, but the management of ironclads can hardly be said to be one of those things. A naval service is of little use without discipline and efficiency, and the Home authorities are better able to secure these than we are. But, even on the conditions named, the Home authorities have not pledged themselves to provide movable defences for the colonies in every time of need, and they have not said that they are prepared to do so. The understanding in England is, that while we may rely on the help of the British fleet when that help can be afforded, in an extremity we shall have to help ourselves. But so far as maritime defence goes, we have made no provision for helping ourselves. Hitherto, we have acted on the assumption that if we provide land defences England will provide water defences. That is clearly what we expect, but it is not what the mother country expects, and in regard to this matter the sooner some definite understanding is arrived at between the Home authorities and our own authorities the better.

In the case of STEPHEN V. NELSON and another, tried in the Jury Court a few days ago, some observations fell from Mr. Justice LYNES on a matter of great importance to the mercantile community. In this action the official assignee of an insolvent named RILEY claimed among other sums £100, the amount of a cheque drawn by the insolvent, and given by him to the defendants on the 4th July, 1883. The defendant NELSON swore positively that when he received the cheque, which was duly honoured at the bank, he had not the slightest idea that RILEY was insolvent. Mr. STEPHEN, Q.C., argued for the plaintiff that this piece of evidence was irrelevant, for as RILEY had paid the cheque at a time when he was in fact insolvent, it was such an attestation as was rendered absolutely void by the eighth section of the Insolvency Act of 1841; and the question whether the payee of the cheque had or had not knowledge of what was RILEY's monetary condition, was immaterial. With this contention, Mr. STEPHEN'S contention did not agree, and after an adjournment he announced that, having consulted three of his brother Judges, he found they were unanimously of opinion that that contention was erroneous. Coupling this with certain dicta to which Mr. Justice LYNES referred, which

were made in the recent case of STEPHEN V. BLANK of Australia, when it came before the Supreme Court on the 4th November last, a considerable doubt has been raised in a matter which has long been regarded by many lawyers as well as commercial men as free from doubt.

Since the case of MORRIS V. FLOWER was decided by the Supreme Court in 1869, it has, we believe, been regarded as settled law that the handing over by a debtor to his creditor of a cheque drawn by himself, or a cheque in his possession drawn by a third person, in payment of his debt, where the debtor is insolvent or contemplates insolvency, or where the transaction is within sixty days of the sequestration of his estate, if it has the effect of preferring such creditor to other existing creditors, is invalid under the eighth section of the Act of 1841. In other words, the handing over of such a cheque has been deemed to be included among "alienations" or "transfers" of "estate, goods, or effects," under the eighth section, and not among "payments," under the twelfth section of that Act, or sections 1 and 2 of the Amending Act of 1861. "The first question upon these pleadings," said Mr. Justice WISE, in delivering the judgment of the Court in MORRIS V. FLOWER, "is whether the handing over by a debtor to his creditor of a cheque drawn by himself, and also a cheque in his possession drawn by a third person, in payment of a debt, can be an invalid transaction under the eighth section of the Insolvency Act. . . . The first point, therefore, to be considered is, are cheques so given within the words 'goods or effects, real or personal,' in the eighth section? . . . We are of opinion that no valid reason can be given for taking cheques out of the operation of these very general words, for cheques are in legal effect inland bills of exchange. . . . The transfer of the document," continued the learned Judge, "is therefore only a mode of transferring a debt; and so the instrument might come within the meaning of the word 'estate,' even if it did not come within the words 'goods and chattels.'" In the case of HUMPHREY V. McMINN, decided in 1869, the facts were different, for there the defendant, to whom £50 was due, received a cheque for a larger sum in order to get it cashed and bring the difference back to his debtor, which he did; and the Court held that this made an essential difference, and on that ground distinguished the case from MORRIS V. FLOWER, "where," said Mr. Justice FAWCETT, "there was a complete alienation of the instrument." In the later case there was no such alienation of the cheque. "The transaction," said Sir ALFRED STEPHEN, "looking at the whole of the facts, was substantially a payment out of the proceeds of the cheque. There was a direction to the defendant to get the money and bring back the balance. In other words, he was in effect a trustee for the insolvent, or agent only, and could not otherwise deal with the cheque without a breach of trust. If there was an alienation of the cheque, the assignee would be entitled to recover the value of the whole, although the only sum received by the defendant was a portion of its proceeds." In accordance with these decisions there has, we believe, been a general opinion for many years that the handing over of a cheque by an insolvent debtor to his creditor in the ordinary way is to be regarded as an "alienation," and not as a "payment;" but this opinion is likely to receive a rude shock from the statement made by Mr. Justice LYNES on Monday last.

The question is one which arises in a vast number of cases every year. A person being insolvent, or on the verge of insolvency, is invariably pressed to settle his claims, and very frequently draws cheques. If the handing over of a cheque to one creditor while others are left unpaid is an "alienation," then it is *ipso facto* void. If, on the other hand, it is a "payment," and the creditor has no knowledge or notice of the debtor's embarrassed circumstances, it is, by virtue of the Act of 1861, valid. If it is an "alienation," then in the recent case of STEPHEN V. NELSON, the fact that NELSON "had not the slightest idea" when he received the cheque that RILEY was insolvent was immaterial, and the official assignee was in any case entitled to recover it for the benefit of the other creditors; if, however, it is a "payment," NELSON'S ignorance of RILEY'S state of insolvency became material, and the jury would be entitled to find a verdict, as they in fact did, for the defendants.

It is manifest, therefore, that the point is one of great practical importance, and in such a matter it is highly desirable that the law should be clear and settled. It is always a subject for regret when a judicial decision affecting matters of daily occurrence, and on the faith of which a large number of transactions have taken place, is questioned by a court of law, and becomes of questionable authority. The judicial rule *Stare decisis*—stand by your decisions—although admitting of exceptions, is one not lightly to be departed from, and there is much force in the old maxim that every innovation causes more disturbance by its novelty than benefit by its abstract utility. The recent judicial observations to which we have drawn attention are an illustration, we fear, of the present at any rate, of raising doubts as to what the law on this point really is.

On Saturday, when distributing the prizes won at the late rifle matches, the President of the Association himself scored two or three points. His recent visit to England suggested the idea of a rifle team to compete at Wimbledon. Competitors on that famous training-ground are drawn from the United Kingdom; but, whilst that may produce a larger number of marksmen, it does not necessarily produce better shots. With the "willow" our men have done well, and, as Sir WILLIAM MAXWELL remarked, there would appear to be no reason to fear that competition between our marksmen and those of England would be creditable to us. At a meeting of members of the several intercolonial teams present at the late intercolonial match, it was resolved that competitive shots could be found and trained for a unit team for competition at Wimbledon. The shooting at the intercolonial match was not considered good, but at the ordinary matches the average of points was higher than usual. It was sufficiently good to indicate that some fairly representative shots could be found and trained for a competition in which the strain would be very great. There was force in the remarks of the President concerning the supply of good rifles to schools. Only 15 Henry rifles between the Sydney Grammar School, the King's School, and Newington, is the record. The use of old carbines may make boys familiar with danger, but the matches of this year show that with such weapons boys will not learn to shoot. It is not necessary to supply a rifle to every schoolboy, but it is useless to ask boys to practise with any but a good weapon. A word of praise was spoken of the willingness of Parliament to role supplies, and for the MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION because he has lately shown an interest in those branches

of training of which the use of arms is the most prominent; but this was introductory to a statement that in Victoria a more liberal policy had been made. It is a sad delusion, but it is of more service to indicate what may be done with an additional £200. The comparison between the amount of prize-money in England and the sum subscribed here is not to our discredit. England subscribes £15,000, Australia £1500. That sum for prizes and trophies is not mean, though it is true that larger sums are spent on less deserving objects.

An irritating rather than an ominous item in late telegraphic news is the announcement of another dynamite outrage in London. It is not an affair to make the whole world tremble or to coerce authority into undesirable concessions; indeed, it is not a business to make any man afraid, or to alter the general tenor of his dispositions or ways. The dynamite treason does not develop. It seemed to culminate in the assassination of the Czar, and since that time has done little more than splutter. The most terrible of recent outrages was committed with knives, not bombs, and far more mischief was done at Clerkenwell Prison with gunpowder than at Scotland Yard or London Bridge with dynamite. Greek fire has been available through centuries to any ruffian who might feel disposed to burn down cities; but it is not a record that any ruffian attains to that pitch of malignancy and self-sacrifice at which he would burn down a city and himself therewith. A deadly fear chills the life out of the most revengeful ideas of this sort. The dangling noose or the unendurable penal servitude cell is a strong enough deterrent, so long as the man is careful to make either the one or the other the inevitable fate of any who offend, further, or aid them, there will be no cause for extravagant precaution or hindering and unnecessary fear. Barring the road of escape we shall bar the road of aggression, and more than that, in the way of protection, the erection of many barriers and bulwarks. We may congratulate ourselves that escapes after outrages of this sort have not been frequent. The police have been vigilant as the public sentiment clear. There has been no desire to shelter Cain's hand, and no disposition to shelter the hand of the murderer. The hand of the murderer has stood up in horror and shaken the unclean thing out of its skirts. It is a praiseworthy though a mistaken sentiment which Australia displayed against the wretches who strove to conceal their share of the Phoenix Park blood amongst us. The sentiment will be a dominant one in the minds of the vast and overwhelming majority of civilised men whenever such dastard episodes as this of London Bridge demand its expression. It is the sin which the common sense and common interest of the world will be opposed to construction and order. It is too detestable to take any root in the broad understanding of humanity, and only needs to be painted black for the instruction of that inconsiderate tenderness which would be deluded into unchaining murder and enfranchising gross vice.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

FORNERS particular and to hand concerning the dynamite outrage at London Bridge. It is believed that property in the vicinity of the explosion has been considerably damaged, though there has been no person injured. A dreadful colliery explosion has taken place in North Hungary, causing the death of 70 persons. A terrible affair is reported from Shanghai. It is said that the police were called out to a dinner being given by the British Minister in honour of the King and his son. The mob got rid of six of the King's Ministers in a very summary fashion by taking their lives, whilst the King himself fled to the hills for safety. There is more talk in Berlin about the colonising intentions of Germany. The Secretary of State has delivered in Sydney yesterday morning. Her London dates are to the 7th November. In another column we publish the letters of our London and Paris correspondents, and extracts from the English papers. It is somewhat startling to learn from our Paris correspondent, that, so far as sanitary conditions are concerned, Paris must be regarded as a whited sepulchre, concealing a mass of quiescent rottenness behind an external appearance of well ordered cleanliness. To the mere casual observer Paris represents a series of well-watered clean-swept streets, neatly kept boulevards and parks; but two facts quoted from our Paris correspondent make the picture which we would imagine, even the most optimistic supporter of the healthiness and cleanliness of the French capital, the first of which is that there are 80,000 cesspools in the city, which are only cleaned out once in three years, and then only on the pressure of some necessity. The second fact is that the population of Paris habitually drink unfiltered water of the Seine, into which flows all the drainage of the city. In another portion of the correspondence, the attitude assumed by the French press with regard to England's offer of mediation in the Franco-Chinese difficulty is briefly reviewed. The general picture of some of the attempts to introduce Shakespeare on the French P. and O. Company's R.M.S. Clyde, with the English mails via Suez to November 14, reached Albany yesterday, about two and a half days in advance of contract time. The Sydney portion of her mail will probably be delivered on Monday. The Pacific Mail Company's R.M.S. Australia arrived at Auckland yesterday with the English and American mails via San Francisco. She may be expected here on Friday afternoon.

The Premier, the Hon. A. Stuart, arrived at Goulburn last evening, at 7 o'clock. He was accompanied by his wife and family. He leaves at 9.30 this morning for Albany.

THERE was a long meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, extending from 10 o'clock in the morning until a quarter-past 1 in the afternoon. Most of the questions under consideration were matters of detail, but we believe it was arranged that land offices should be established at Orange and Glen Inagh. A PROCLAMATION by his Excellency the Governor appears in a supplement to the *Government Gazette* published yesterday, declaring and appointing the vessel *Prospector* to be a floating magazine for the storage of explosives. The position of the vessel is thus defined:—"The said vessel shall be moored in the water of the port of Broken Bay; it is to be, in a light airy spot on the western shore, Pittwater, near the head of the bay, in about six fathoms of water, and about 375 yards from land north, south, and west of the said bay; and that the precincts thereof shall be as follows, viz., a distance of 20 yards from any part of the vessel; and do hereby proclaim that the same shall be, on and after the date hereof, the precincts of the said floating magazine." Any person entering such precincts without authority, and refusing to withdraw after being directed so to do by the Ordnance Storekeeper or other person under his authority, may be either forcibly removed or taken into custody for the purpose of being brought before the nearest Court of Petty Sessions, and will be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20.

SEVERAL cases of general interest were commenced in the Supreme Court yesterday, but not concluded. In the Banco Court an action was commenced, in which the executor of the will of the late Dr. Jenkins, of Newport, Tarn, was named as defendant, and certain lands resumed by the Minister for Works in connection with the Sydney water supply. In the Jury Court the action by Young and another v. the Commissioner for Railways was opened. The plaintiff, George Young, sole surviving representative of the late Mr. Young, claimed compensation for a railway accident, and sought to recover compensation for alleged losses caused by the interference of the Railway Department in the carrying out by plaintiff's firm of the railway extension from Gunnedah to Narrabri. The case will last all to-day and probably a portion of Wednesday. His Honour the Chief Justice, who presided at the trial, said that the defendant's plea was that the plaintiff's loss was caused by the interference of the Railway Department in the carrying out by plaintiff's firm of the railway extension from Gunnedah to Narrabri. The case will last all to-day and probably a portion of Wednesday. His Honour the Chief Justice, who presided at the trial, said that the defendant's plea was that the plaintiff's loss was caused by the interference of the Railway Department in the carrying out by plaintiff's firm of the railway extension from Gunnedah to Narrabri. The case will last all to-day and probably a portion of Wednesday. His Honour the Chief Justice, who presided at the trial, said that the defendant's plea was that the plaintiff's loss was caused by the interference of the Railway Department in the carrying out by plaintiff's firm of the railway extension from Gunnedah to Narrabri. 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MAGNIFICENT BRITISH TEA AND COFFEE SERVICES, latest fashions

BUCKLE QUALITY CLOCKS, modern designs

ELEGANT LIQUOR FRAMES, cut glass bottles

HEAVILY-PLATED SILVER AND CUP BASKETS

BRILLIANT ROWLS, 7-1/2 inch centres

MAGNIFICENT CARVETS, silks, embroidered and ivory handles

ELEGANT FISH-KATERS, ivory handles

Extensive FINE CARVETS, in silks

VERY HANDSOME SETS CARVERS, in cases, E.P. handles

INVALID CRUETS, TOAST RACKS

MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION WAX DOLLS

ALUMINA DRESSING CASES

TOILET REQUISITES, &c., &c.

Just landed.

PRIVATE BUYERS and the PUBLIC OVERALLY are invited

to inspect the MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION of Christmas

NOVELTIES, every line of which must be POSITIVELY

SOLD WITHOUT RESERVE.

Terms, cash. NO RESERVE.

STANMORE-ROAD, STANMORE-ROAD.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th.

To Gentlemen Furnishing, Private Buyers, Furniture Agents, and others.

ATTRACTIVE UNRESERVED SALE BY AUCTION,

SUPERIOR MODERN HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE

AND EFFECTS.

On the premises, Richmond Villa, Stanmore-road,

opposite Tupper-street.

Magnificent Ebony TRICORNER PIANOFORTE, Ironbound, by

J. Frost and Co., originally cost 80 guineas, a most melodious

instrument, with excellent touch. Also in splendid order

ELEGANT DINING-ROOM SET, covered Oak

Walnut and Ebony, 100 TABLE

Wardrobe, with excellent touch. Also in splendid order

Magnificent CHINA, including

BOCCACCIO, CHIFFONIER, SIDEBOARD

ANORA COATLIN, HUGO

Dress and Dress-UP, BEDSTEAD

CHESTS, DRAWERS, TOILETS

SEAS MATRASSES, PILLOWS, &c.

HOUSE LINEN, CUTLERY

ELECTROPLATED WARE, GLASSWARE

WATER COLOURS, CHINA FIGURES

AUSTRIAN CHAIRS, LINOLINUM

CROCKERY, KITCHEN and LAUNDRY UTENSILS, &c., &c.

Just landed, &c., &c.

LOUIS COHEN has received instructions from S. S.

Adams, Esq., to sell by auction, on the premises, Richmond

Villa, Stanmore-road, on WEDNESDAY, December 17, at 11

o'clock.

The whole of

THE VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND EFFECTS.

Terms, cash. NO RESERVE.

WEDNESDAY, 17th December.

CHINA FIGURES.

Under instructions from Messrs. Brown and Co.

18 Cases China Sugar, in 6th. 100

100 Tins Finest Snowdrop Sugar

100 Tins Fine Yellow Sugar.

FRASER and CO. will sell the above, on WED-

NESDAY, 17th instant, at 11 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17.

TEAS, SUGARS, CURRANTS, RAISINS

CONFECTIONERY, OLIVENS' STORES

GROVER'S, FLOUR, WHISKY

BRANDY, &c.

450 Boxes SULTANAS, with all faults, if any.

FRASER and CO. will sell the above by auction, at

the City Mart, December 17, at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th.

Barque PLAY BENTOS.

Now lying in Newcastle.

511 tons register.

Will carry a large cargo.

This Vessel has been open to inspection, and buyers are informed

that it is for ABSOLUTE SALE.

By order of the Mortgagees.

FRASER and CO. are instructed to sell by auction, as

above.

The barque FRAY BENTOS, as she lies in Newcastle

harbour, with all gear, &c., as per inventory.

THURSDAY, December 18.

STOCK-IN-TRADE of a TIMBER MERCHANT.

Under a Bill of Sale, No. 98, Book 290.

Comprising

HARDWOOD, OREGON, COLONIAL PINE,

RASHES, DOORS, &c.

FRASER and CO. will sell by auction, on the Premises,

as above.

The stock-in-trade, lease, and goodwill of a timber yard.

Terms at sale.

THURSDAY, December 18, at 10 o'clock.

AT THE CITY MART.

AT 3 O'CLOCK.

Under instructions from

Messrs. CALDWELL and CO.,

of Melbourne.

A FINE ASSORTMENT

CELEBRATED

CROWN BRAND WINES,

including 160 quarters of

CLARET, CHABRI, ROSE, FINE, MUSCAT, SAUTERNE,

PHONOT, &c., &c.

The above Wines obtained the Gold Medal at the Calcutta

Exhibition.

FRASER and CO. will sell by auction, as above, a

choice assortment of

COLONIAL WINES,

on THURSDAY, 18th December, at 2 o'clock,

100 quarters each of colonial wine.

FRIDAY, 19th December, at 11 o'clock.

CAKE LOUNGES.

FRASER and CO. will sell the above by auction, at

11 o'clock, on FRIDAY, 19th December.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th.

At 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, 18th December.

AT 11 A.M.

SECOND SALE.

IMPORTANT UNRESERVED SALE BY AUCTION

HIGH-CLASS WINES,

under instructions from

Mr. J. T. FALLON,

comprising

CHARACTER, and of the FINEST GRADE

(house bottled under 18 years old).

WHITE WINES.

Red, White, Rosé, Muscat, Muscat,

Shiraz, Cabernet, Burgundy, Hermitage, Malbec.

Also,

CHAMPAGNE, medium dry and dry

FOUR, well matured.

* * * Fallon's wines received the highest appreciation at the

Exhibitions held in London, Vienna, Philadelphia, Sydney, Mel-

bourne, and Bordeaux, where they were judged by the ablest

European experts, and compared with the finest vintages of the

world.

To Private Gentlemen, Club Committees, Managers of Clubs,

Connoisseurs, Hotel Proprietors, Wine and Spirit Merchants,

Shippers, Dealers, &c.

HARRIS and ACKMAN are in receipt of instructions

from Mr. J. T. FALLON to arrange the above second

SALE, on THURSDAY, 18th December, at 11 a.m.

NO RESERVE.

TERMS AT SALE.

THIS DAY, 18th DECEMBER, at 11 a.m.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION.

Under instructions from the Importers.

120 Cases THE AMERICAN PRESERVED TOMATOES

400 Boxes PARAFFIN CANDLES

100 Cases KOP'S EXTRACT MEAT, assorted

100 Cases DRY CONDENSED SOUP

200 Cases LIME JUICE, CORNED

100 Cases MOUNTAIN RAISINS

200 Cases Currants

40 Boxes Raisins

24 Cases Home Made, each 100 boxes

40 Cases CHINESE PRESERVED GINGER

100 Cases CHOW CHOW

10 Cases King Mince and Co's Tomato Ketchup

10 Cases King Mince and Co's Tomato Ketchup

10 Cases King Mince and Co's Tomato Ketchup

10 Cases King Mince and Co's Tomato Ketchup

10 Cases King Mince and Co's Tomato Ketchup

10 Cases King Mince and Co's Tomato Ketchup

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, at 11 a.m.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION.

MESSRS. MONTEFIORE, JOSEPH, and CO.

1000 CASES R. and S. PORTLAND CEMENT.

To Builders, Contractors, Merchants, Shippers,

Dealers, &c.

HARRIS and ACKMAN will sell the above

BY AUCTION, at the NEW AUCTION MART, No. 109,

PITT-STREET, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, at 11 a.m.

NO RESERVE.

TERMS AT SALE.

WEDNESDAY, 17th DECEMBER, at 11 a.m.

IMPORTANT SALE BY AUCTION.

Ex. Brabant, from London.

87 CASES IRON and BRASS HIDEWAYS and COGS, &c.

HALF-YESTER, 1-inch, 6 x 3, assorted colours

Ditto, 1-inch, 6 x 3, ditto

Ditto, 1-inch, 6 x 3, ditto

Ditto, 1-inch, 6 x 3, ditto

Ditto, 1-inch, 6 x 3, ditto

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Ditto, 1-inch, 6 x 3, ditto

Ditto, 1-inch, 6 x 3, ditto

ORDER OF AUCTION SALES

MESSRS. CHAN, MOORE and CO.,

125, Pitt-street.

Important and entirely unreserved

Final Clearance Sale of 8000 and

SHIRAZ, Balance of 8000, &c.,

under instructions from Messrs. Raddington

and Sons, who are relinquishing the

Right and share branch of their business.

